

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 12174 131148Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
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DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2856
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12174

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EC, PLOS, EFIS, UR

SUBJECT: EC-USSR FISHING ISSUE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 12137

1. USSR ANNOUNCEMENT OVER WEEKEND THAT IT WAS ADOPTING A 200
MILE FISHING PROTECTED ZONE, WHOSE AREAS WOULD INCLUDE BALTIC
AS WELL AS BARENTS SEA, HAS CREATED ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION
CONCERNING EC OPTIONS FOR HANDLING USSR-EE FISHING IN EC
ZONE AFTER JANUARY 1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM DECEMBER 12,
GALLAGHER, EC COMMISSION DORECTOR FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS,
SAID IT APPEARS FROM PRESS REPORTS (COMMISSION HAS NOT YET
SEEN TEXT OF SOVIET DECREE) THAT USSR WILL INSIST ON INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR FOREIGN FLEET FISHING IN ITS
200 MILE ZONE. CLEARLY, EC COULD NOT OFFER UNILATERAL QUOTA
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 12174 131148Z

AS DESCRIBED REFTEL IF USSR REFUSED TO ALLOW COMMUNITY VESSELS

IN ITS WATERS. (INCIDENTALLY, PROPOSAL DESCRIBED REFTEL WOULD HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED FOR DETERMINATION OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH, AND THUS WOULD BE LOWER THAN 10 YEAR AVERAGE CATCH.)

2. WITH EXTENSION SOVIET ZONE INTO BALTIC (WHICH EC HAD NOT INTENDED TO COVER IN ITS NEW ZONE), MAIN EC INTERESTS AFFECTED ARE FRANCE AND FRG. HOWEVER, SOVIET FLEETS FISH MAINLY IN UK, IRISH AND DANISH (GREENLAND) WATERS. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NO SCOPE FOR DIRECT BILATERAL NATIONAL TRADE OFFS IN THIS SITUATION. HOWEVER, GALLAGHER IS CONCERNED THAT FRG WILL TRY TO MAKE DEAL WITH UK TO EFFECT THAT, IF UK PERMITS SOVIETS TO FISH UK WATERS, FRG WILL SUPPORT UK DESIRE TO HAVE 50 MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE INSTEAD OF COMMISSION PROPOSED 12 MILE ZONE. IRISH AND PROBABLY DANES WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DEAL. RESULT WOULD BE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNITY COMMON NEGOTIATING FRONT, WHICH COMMISSION WILL FIGHT AS HARD AS IT CAN TO PROTECT. (COMMENT: SITUATION INCREASES PRESSURE ON COMMISSION TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT WITH US TO KEEP FRG HAPPY AND STRENGTHEN COMMISSION HAND IN DEALING WITH SOVIETS. END COMMENT)

3. THOUGH PROPOSAL IN REFTEL REMAINS THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY IF SOVIETS WOULD TAKE SIMILAR ACTION, GALLAGHER FEARS THAT BOTH EC AND USSR MAY BE IN POSTURE ON JANUARY 1 OF SAYING TO EACH OTHER: NO AGREEMENT, NO FISH. WHILE THIS IS FINE FROM EC VIEWPOINT IN ECONOMIC TERMS, IT CARRIES SOME RISK OF CONFRONTATION AND INTERNAL POLITICAL STIMULI IN EC SINCE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH UK (AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS). OFFSETTING PRESSURE MAY COME FROM POLAND AND GDR, WHO WOULD BE FROZEN OUT OF RICH EC FISHERIES IN BALTIC AND NORTH SEA WITHOUT EITHER AGREEMENT WITH EC OR UNILATERAL ICNAF-TYPE QUOTA.

4. GALLAGHER PREDICTS CONFUSING EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION TODAY ON THIS ISSUE, AND DOES NOT ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY THAT NO DECISION WILL BE TAKEN. HINTON

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